



TENUTA SAN GUIDO
NEW RELEASES 2021



Armit Wines is proud to offer the 50th Anniversary Vintage of Sassicaia, from Tenuta San Guido. Any milestone birthday is always cause for celebration, but when coupled with a vintage as excellent as the 2018, it becomes a genuine cause for excitement.

A classic year for Sassicaia, the 2018 vintage is an opportunity to experience a piece of Italian vinous history. What better way to mark the occasion than with a wine which The Wine Advocate describes as being “distinguished by the archetypal elegance and pedigree of the classic vintages of the past”?

Notably, the 2018 is the third highest-scoring vintage of Sassicaia from The Wine Advocate, following the legendary 1985 and 2016 vintages. A quintessential Sassicaia, the 2018 can rightly be regarded as being amongst the top echelons of what this iconic estate has ever produced.

*

One of Italy’s top estates, rivalling the first growths of Bordeaux, Tenuta San Guido spearheaded the recent renaissance of Italian wines. When in the 1940s the Marchese Mario Incisa della Rocchetta and his wife Clarice della Gherardesca settled on Tenuta San Guido on the Tyrrhenian coast, he started experimenting with several French grape varieties. For years, the Marchese dreamt of creating a “thoroughbred” wine inspired by Bordeaux.

The similarity of the terroir – the stony, gravelly soil of the estate – convinced him that Cabernet Sauvignon would thrive. From 1948 to 1967, Sassicaia remained a strictly private affair – produced and consumed by the Marchese, his family, and guests.

During the 1960s, the Marchese Mario Incisa was urged by his loved ones to release this revolutionary wine, by the Italian standards of the time, to the market. In 1968, Sassicaia was finally released for the world to enjoy. The Marchese Nicolò and his daughter Priscilla are now driving Tenuta San Guido’s wines to new, exciting heights, continuing the innovative legacy of Mario.





The Estate

Tenuta San Guido is clearly divided into three main parts, with the wine occupying just a tiny fraction of the whole estate. The Razza Dormello-Olgiate thoroughbred stud farm and the Bird Sanctuary Padule di Bolgheri complete the array of activities that are carried out at this agricultural estate. Stretching for 13 km from the sea to the hills near the medieval hamlet of Bolgheri, the vineyards of Tenuta San Guido cover no more than 90 hectares of the total estate.

The specific parcels chosen to cultivate the vines vary in altitude, aspect, and soil composition, adding to the overall complexity of the wines of Tenuta San Guido.

Sassicaia enjoys the honour to have been given its own DOC, the DOC Bolgheri Sassicaia, the first, and so far, only case in Italy of a DOC contained within one estate. The estate yields are kept very low, 55-60 quintals per hectare, guaranteeing pristine grapes that will give life to elegant, age-worthy wines.

"I tasted [the 2018] blind against the powerful and structured 2016 and 2017, and I slightly preferred the more elegant and refined 2018. The quality of tannins and finesse is superb. It will be a gorgeous wine to try on release and drink for decades to come."

James Suckling

"This vintage is crystalline and pure in its delivery... It is impossible to mistake this wine for anything but Sassicaia."

The Wine Advocate



VINTAGE REPORT

2018

Sassicaia

*“Happy Birthday
Sassicaia!”*
The Wine Advocate

The 2018 vintage was a classic year for Sassicaia. Autumn and early winter were characterised by temperatures above the seasonal norm with sporadic rains. This situation that lasted until February, with greater intensity of rain and some snow at the highest altitudes. At the beginning of March, temperatures rose slightly. Shortly after, a further wave of frost affected the whole of Italy, especially the Tuscan coast. Spring arrived in the second half of April, with rising temperatures and sunny days.

Throughout spring to late summer, temperatures remained normal, without excess heat and with occasional rains, favouring the phenological phases of flowering and fruit set. During July, the heat became intense; the high temperatures lasted until mid-August, which brought abundant rains, refreshment to the vines and temperatures returned to normal.

The harvest of Cabernet Franc began in the first ten days of September, while Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were picked from 16th September to 4th October. The production was slightly lower than expected but of fantastic quality, with an excellent level of phenolic ripeness and no excessive sugar content, guaranteeing moderate alcohol content and excellent aromatic complexity.

*“Sassicaia is the most
finessed of Bolgheri’s
top wines. That is very
much the case in 2018
as well. I loved it.”*

Antonio Galloni

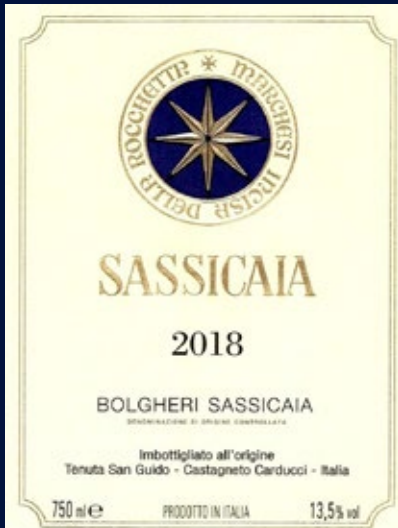
2019

*Guidalberto
Le Difese*

After a rather mild and dry autumn, winter temperatures dropped a lot, helped by the cold north winds. This period was characterised also by lack of rain, except for a few rainy days in February. From the beginning of March, the beautiful sunny days and the substantial increase in temperatures anticipated the budding. However, temperatures dropped again in April, when the long-awaited rains arrived. Two short hailstorms in April thinned the shoots and slightly reduced the amount of production. The continuation of spring was also somewhat unusual, as it was characterised by temperatures below the seasonal norm and persistent rains, accompanied by north winds. Flowering was slightly delayed to May and took place in optimal conditions with no winds. The result was an excellent, regular, and complete fruit set. June was characterized by high temperatures, with daytime temperatures often even above 40 °C. Luckily this intense heat did not last long. Storms occurred at the beginning of July, bringing refreshment to the vines, and re-establishing the underground water reserves. August was quite hot but with temperatures that have always remained in the seasonal average. After mid-August, some rains brought refreshment and prevented any risk of water stress to the plants.

NEW RELEASES

2018 Sassicaia £900 per 6x75cl IB



With this classic and cooler vintage, Sassicaia has reached a level that no one else in Bolgheri has obtained yet. The nose is closed but precise, delicately perfumed with nuances of violet and peony, cherries and mulberries, minerality, purity and precision. The bouquet is already open, evolving constantly and delivering so much complexity and grace. Delicate and subtle in texture on the palate, it is lithe and precise, with great freshness. The silky and powdery tannic structure provide a lingering finish. This is a very touching wine, charismatic and energetic, a vintage that will sit amongst the very greatest from this iconic winery. Drink from 2023.

Nicolas Clerc MS

"This is a classic vintage of an Italian icon now celebrating its 50th vintage. The Tenuta San Guido 2018 Bolgheri Sassicaia lays out a familiar blueprint that borrows from the proven track record of this landmark estate that extends into the hills just beyond the

Tyrrhenian shores of Tuscany. This vintage is crystalline and pure in its delivery, and if you are familiar with previous editions, it is impossible to mistake this wine for anything but Sassicaia. The growing season started off cool and wet but turned to warm and dry conditions comfortably before the harvest. Cabernet Sauvignon with Cabernet Franc in a supporting role deliver a graceful mid-weight texture that holds back style-wise in terms of phenolic density. The wine's careful balance is achieved thanks to the nuanced character of the fruit, the present acidity, the well-managed structure and the contained alcohol. The palate is lifted and bright, the finish is polished and long, and the wine skips over any heaviness on the mid-palate. The bouquet is especially intriguing with a very lively plummy fruit element that is enhanced by baker's chocolate, pepper spice, iron ore, caramel and pie crust. There is also a green character that adds positively to the bouquet with aniseed, tea leaf, soya, menthol rub and black olive. The fruit maturity is spot-on with no elements that feel over or underripe. Overall, the 2018 Sassicaia weighs in with a svelte frame and long persistence. Moreover, it is distinguished by the archetypal elegance and pedigree of the classic vintages of the past. This new release gives you much pleasure to await." **97+ Points, Monica Lerner, The Wine Advocate**

"Beautiful, serene aromas of sweet berries and wild flowers with light lavender and fresh sage. Really aromatic. A firm, silky red with medium to full body and ultra fine tannins that are polished and beautiful. Lots of blue fruit and blackberries follow through to a beautiful finish. Really tight and polished. Bright acidity. Will be lovely to drink in a few years. The 2017 and 2016 were about power, but the 2018 is about finesse and subtlety. Try after 2024." **97 Points, James Suckling**

"The 2018 Sassicaia is fabulous. Bright and beautifully poised, the 2018 opens with brilliant aromatics that make a strong first impression. Delicate and light on its feet, the 2018 is a regal wine that is going to need a number of years to come into its own. Sassicaia is the most finessed of Bolgheri's top wines. That is very much the case in 2018 as well. I loved it...The year favored the estate's oldest vineyards, those on hillside sites. The 2018 spent 19 months in oak, two-thirds new, a bit more new oak than the norm." **97 Points, Antonio Galloni, Vinous**

2019 Guidalberto

£170 per 6x75cl IB



Another stellar vintage for Guidalberto, which year after year defines itself with its own identity and personality. It exudes a perfectly ripe character of bright dark berries, at once pure and floral, and a sense of minerality with graphite and stony character on the nose. The palate is dense, vibrant and balanced, with a sense of harmony and solidity. This is the wine that always delivers early in its life – and it offers real value, too. The identity of 2019 with Guidalberto is already giving you a hint of where Sassicaia will be next year. Drink from 2022. **Nicolas Clerc MS**

Compared to the 2018 vintage, for obvious reasons of climatic conditions that affected the vintage, Guidalberto 2019 stands out for its great complexity, aromatic component, maturity of tannins and balanced acidity. All of this combined suggests great aging potential.

2019 Le Difese

£90 per 6x75cl IB

Fragrant and open, with aromas of ripe raspberries and cranberries, notes of violet and a real Mediterranean character of oregano and tarragon, black olives and vine-ripened tomatoes. The palate is tense and fresh, light and easy. Le Difese in 2019 is a symbol of conviviality and approachability, which you will enjoy from 2021 and over the next 3 years. **Nicolas Clerc MS**

Excellent extraction in young musts and a beautiful concentration of fruit which, especially for Sangiovese, characterise this vintage of Le Difese very well. High sugar levels have determined a more sustained alcohol content but well-balanced by respectable acidity and harmonious complexity on the palate.





TENUTA SAN GUIDO NEW RELEASES 2021

Large formats available on request.

To enquire about your allocation for the 2021 releases from Tenuta San Guido, please get in contact with clients@armitwines.co.uk at your earliest convenience.